

Message Text

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42

ACTION CPR-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-10 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 DRC-01 INRE-00 /048 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3867

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3776

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, US

SUBJECT: NEW SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US

1. ACTING FONMIN CASTANEDA HAS INFORMALLY NOTIFIED ME THAT GOES HAS DECIDED TO NOMINATE DR FRANCISCO BERTRAND GALINDO AS AMBASSADOR TO THE US. DR BETRAND GALINDO ASSUMED THE THIRD RANKING POSITION IN THE MINISTRY, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN POLICY, SOME THREE MONTHS AGO AND RECENTLY HAS BEEN BACKSTOPPING THE SALVADORAN DELGATION TO THE HONDURAN/ SALVADOR TALKS UNDERWAY IN MEXICO.

2. DR BETRAND GALINDO IS REPORTED TO BE AN OUTSTANDING LAWYER, TAUGHT INTERNATIONAL LAW AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (HE WAS, IN FACT, CASTANEDA'S INSTRUCTOR THERE) AND HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO RE-ORGANIZE THE UNIVERSITY. HE IS KNOWN TO HAVE CLOSE PERSONAL TIES TO PRESIDENT MOLINA, ALLEGEDLY DATING BACK TO THE EARLY 1960'S. CASTANEDA DESCRIBES HIM AS A "PERSON WHO HAS THE ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT AND IS INTIMATELY LINKED WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS". OUR BRIEF CONTACT WITH HIM SINCE HE ASSUMED HIS POSITION IN THE MINISTRY INDICATES HE IS IN HIS EARLY 40'S, IS INTELLIGENT, SOFT SPOKEN AND FRIENDLY ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT RESERVED. HE SPEAKS LITTLE OR NO ENGLISH AND IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE STUDIED ABROAD. FILE CHECKS INDICATE NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION.

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3. COMMENT: DR BETRAND GALINDO'S NOMINATION COMES AS A SURPRISE; HIS NAME NEVER CROPPED UP AMONG THE VARIOUS RUMORED CANDIDATES THAT CAME TO OUR ATTENTION IN RECENT WEEKS. ALTHOUGH HE HAS LITTLE OR NO FOREIGN EXPERIENCE, HE DEFINITELY DOES HAVE AN INSIDE TRACK TO THE MINISTRY AND THE PRESIDENT AND HIS VIEWS WOULD CARRY WEIGHT IN THE GOVERNMENT. CASTANEDA TOLD ME THAT THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO REQUEST AGREEMENT IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO. I TRUST THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO THE SALVADORAN REQUEST SINCE WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR RECIPROCALLY RAPID ACTION WHEN WE MAKE OUR REQUEST.
MOSKOWITZ

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